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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/669,082	09/25/2000	Richard L. Scopp	6734.US.O1	3368
23492	7590	04/28/2005	EXAMINER DO, PENSEE T	
ROBERT DEBERARDINE ABBOTT LABORATORIES 100 ABBOTT PARK ROAD DEPT. 377/AP6A ABBOTT PARK, IL 60064-6008			ART UNIT 1641	
DATE MAILED: 04/28/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/669,082

Applicant(s)

SCOPP ET AL.

Examiner

Pensee T. Do

Art Unit

1641

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 February 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-17 and 26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2 4-17, 26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Withdrawn Rejection(s)

The rejection under 35 USC 102 in the previous office action is withdrawn herein. (this art rejection should have been withdrawn in the previous office action because Applicants have narrowed down claim 1 to include polylysine, polyornithine, polybrene or dimethyldiallylammonium chloride).

Maintained Rejection(s)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1, 2, 4-17 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The present specification fails to disclose the "unconjugated" large polycation as recited in the claims. The claims now recite adding an "unconjugated" large polycation in a sample to decrease interferences. However, the present specification fails to teach an "unconjugated" polycation. The present specification only teaches a large polycation. It does not teach an "unconjugated" large polycation. Thus, one of ordinary skills in the art would not assume that such large polycation is an "unconjugated" large polycation.

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Description and clear support of an “unconjugated” large polycation is required in the specification.

Furthermore, the amendment to the specification filed on February 11, 2005 fails to put the claims in condition for allowance. Rather, it creates a new matter issue.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed February 11, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants have amended the specification by adding a sentence “therefore, the polycation is unconjugated” to overcome the 112, 1st rejection (lack of description). Applicants further argue that there are supports in the specification for “unconjugate polycation”, i.e. the polycation can be added during the immunoassay as a separate reagent” and “the polycation can be incorporated into an assay specific diluent”. Applicants also pointed out supports in the examples that the polycation does not bind to any label or ligand in an assay.

The supports for an “***unconjugated***” polycation pointed out by Applicants are not persuasive. A polycation conjugated to some molecule other than a ligand for binding the analyte or a label, can be added as a “separate reagent” in assay. The polycation can be conjugated to a substrate for the enzyme label in the assay. Such conjugate can be added as a “separate reagent” in an assay or can be incorporated into an assay specific diluent. The specification fails to describe that the polycation added as a separate reagent is conjugated or unconjugated; or that the polycation is incorporated into the assay specific diluent as conjugated or unconjugated. Furthermore, regarding

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Applicants' arguments about the examples, that the anti-TSH antibody is conjugated to the TSH and not the polycations or that an acridinium label is conjugated to the anti-alpha TSH and not the polycation, the polycation does not have to be conjugated to the acridinium label or the TSH or the anti-TSH antibody. In fact, it can be conjugated to other molecules such as a substrate for an enzyme label and together the conjugate is added as a separate reagent.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 2, 4-17 and 26 are allowed over the prior arts.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pensee T. Do whose telephone number is 571-272-0819. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00-3:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le can be reached on 571-272-0823. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Pensee T. Do
Patent examiner
April 22, 2005


CHRISTOPHER L. CHIN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1800-1641
4/26/05